

Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended): An optical compensation plate comprising an optical compensation layer, wherein an anti-cracking layer of a curable adhesive agent is laminated directly on at least one surface of the optical compensation layer, said optical compensation layer is a cholesteric layer whose constituent molecules are aligned in the form of a cholesteric structure, and said curable adhesive agent comprises at least one thermosetting resin-based adhesive selected from the group consisting of an epoxy resin, an isocyanate resin and a polyimide resin,

the constituent molecule of the cholesteric layer is produced from a liquid crystal monomer and a chiral dopant,

the liquid crystal monomer is selected from the group consisting of: a compound represented by the below formula (4); a compound represented by the below formula (5); a compound represented by the below formula (6); a compound represented by the below formula (7); a compound represented by the below formula (8); a compound represented by the below formula (9); a compound represented by the below formula (10); a compound represented by the below formula (11); a compound represented by the below formula (12); a compound represented by the below formula (13); a compound represented by the below formula (14); a compound represented by the below formula (15); a compound represented by the below formula (16); a compound represented by the below

Amendment

Application No. 10/502,296

Attorney Docket No. 042515

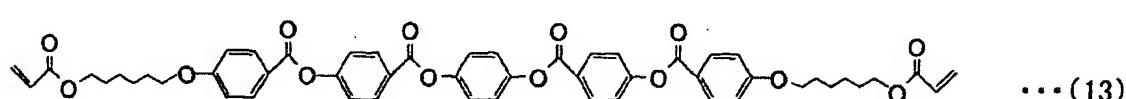
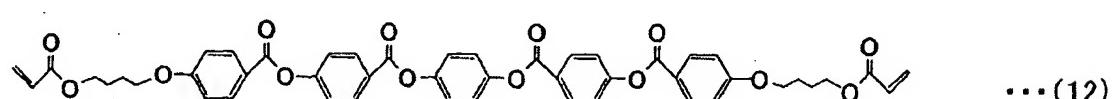
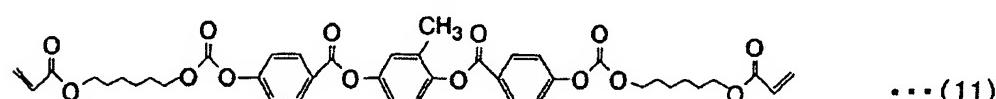
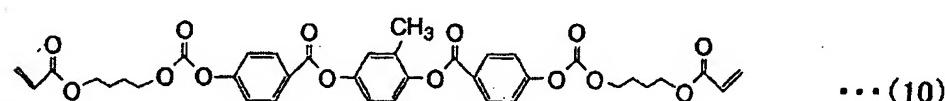
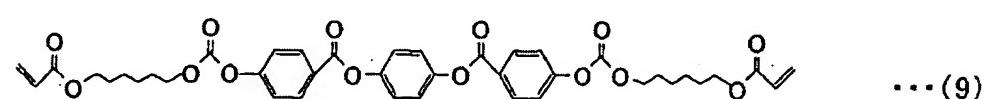
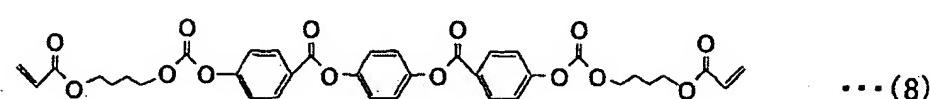
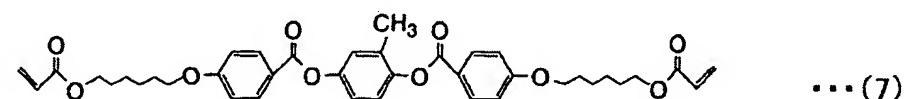
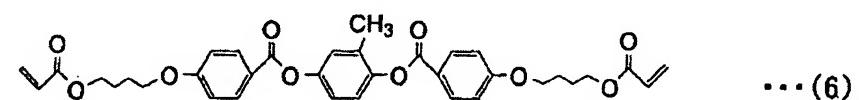
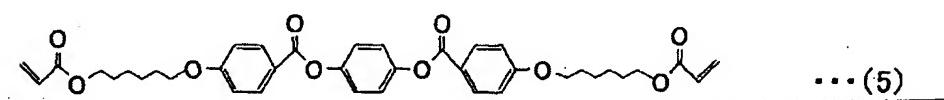
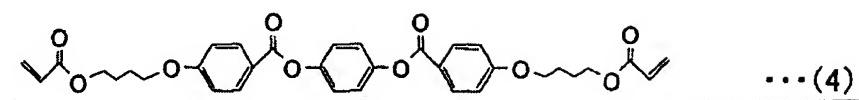
formula (17); a compound represented by the below formula (18); and a compound represented by the below formula (19), and

the chiral dopant is selected from the group consisting of: a compound represented by the below formula (24); a compound represented by the below formula (25); a compound represented by the below formula (26); a compound represented by the below formula (27); a compound represented by the below formula (28); a compound represented by the below formula (29); a compound represented by the below formula (30); a compound represented by the below formula (31); a compound represented by the below formula (32); a compound represented by the below formula (33); a compound represented by the below formula (34); a compound represented by the below formula (35); a compound represented by the below formula (36); a compound represented by the below formula (37); a compound represented by the below formula (38); a compound represented by the below formula (39); a compound represented by the below formula (40); a compound represented by the below formula (41); a compound represented by the below formula (42); a compound represented by the below formula (43); and a compound represented by the below formula (44)

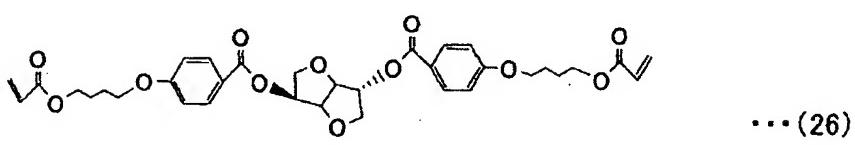
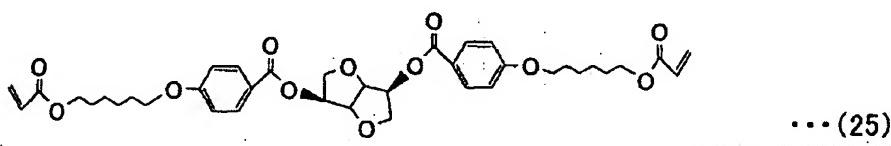
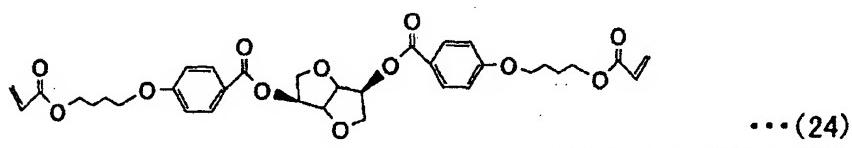
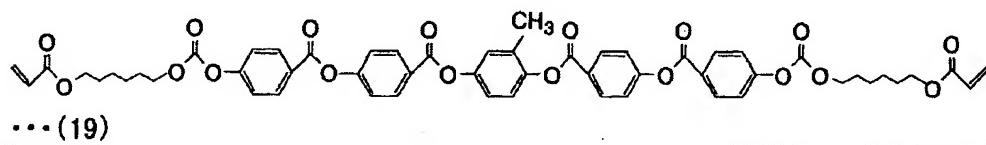
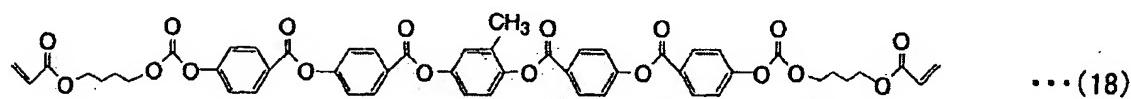
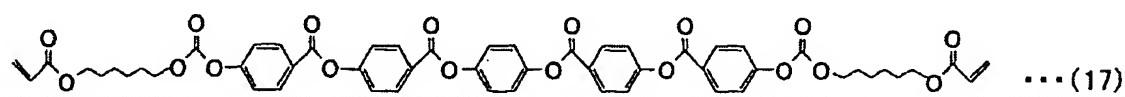
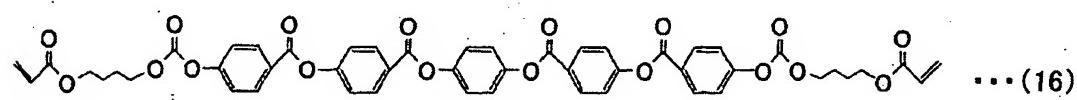
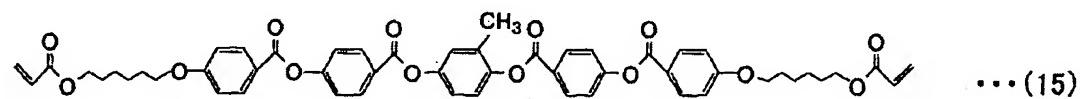
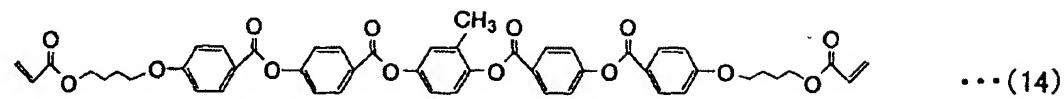
Amendment

Application No. 10/502,296

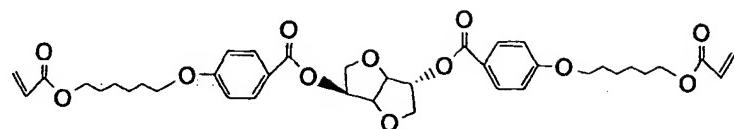
Attorney Docket No. 042515



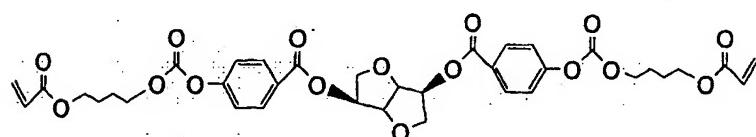
Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515



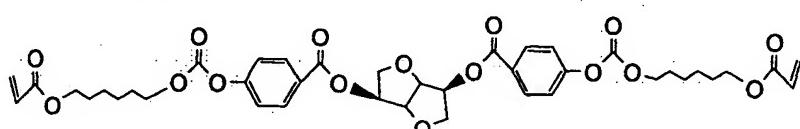
Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515



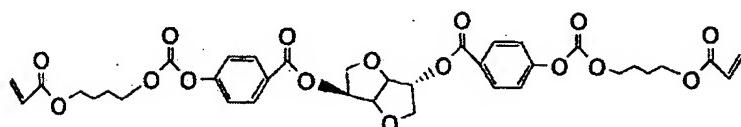
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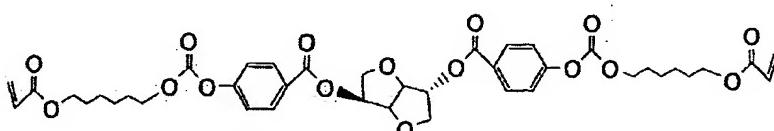
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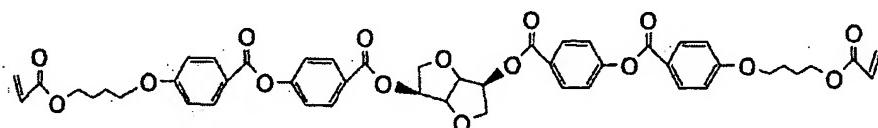
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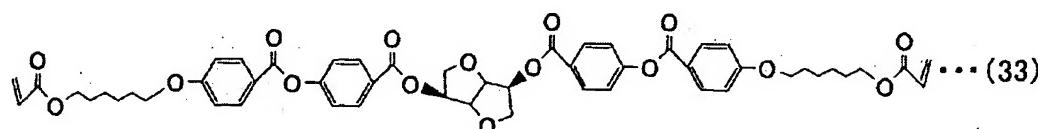
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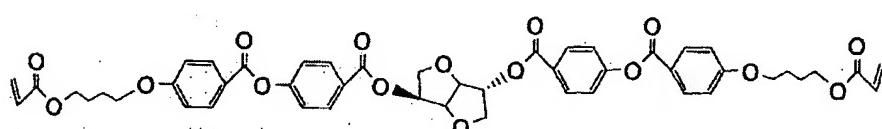
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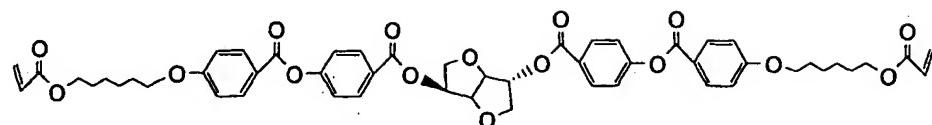


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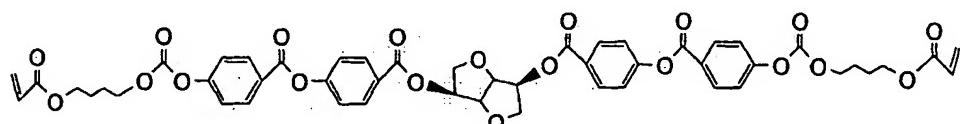


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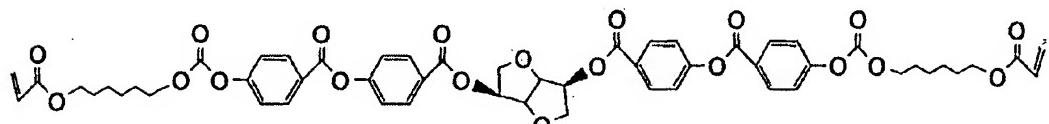
Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515



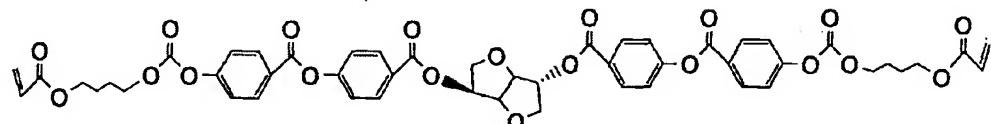
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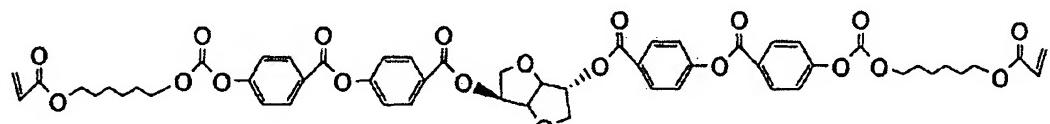
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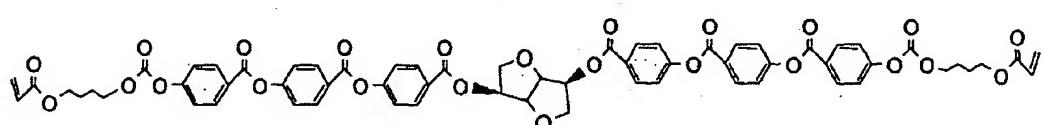
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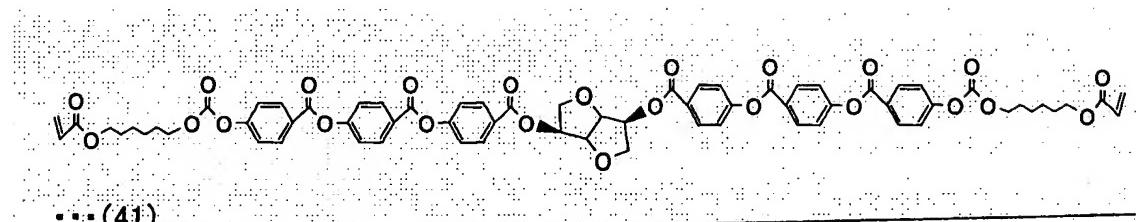


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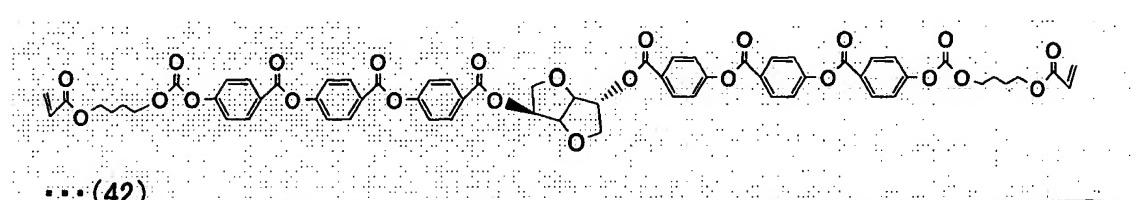
Amendment

Application No. 10/502,296

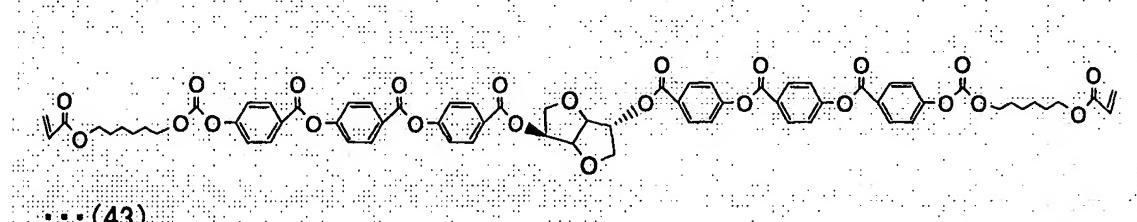
Attorney Docket No. 042515



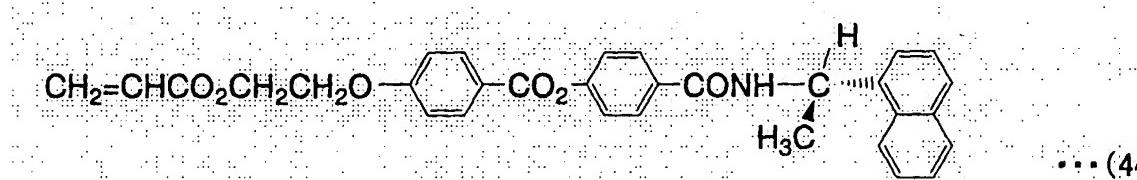
... (41)



... (42)



... (43)



... (44)

2. (Original): The optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein a microhardness of the anti-cracking layer ranges from 0.1 to 0.5 GPa.

3-5. (Cancelled)

Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515

6. (Original): The optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein a thickness of the anti-cracking layer ranges from 0.1 to 20 μm .

7. (Cancelled)

8. (Previously Amended): The optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein the thickness of the cholesteric layer ranges from 0.5 to 10 μm .

9. (Cancelled)

10. (Currently Amended): The optical compensation plate according to claim [[9]] 1, wherein a helical pitch of a cholesteric alignment ranges from 0.01 to 0.25 μm .

11. (Cancelled)

12. (Original): A polarizing plate comprising a polarizer, a transparent protective layer and the optical compensation plate according to claim 1, wherein the polarizer and the optical compensation plate are laminated together via the transparent protective layer.

Amendment
Application No. 10/502,296
Attorney Docket No. 042515

13. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 12, wherein the optical compensation plate and the transparent protective layer are directly adhered to each other by the anti-cracking layer in the optical compensation plate.

14. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 12, wherein, in the optical compensation plate, a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is laminated on the surface of the optical compensation layer opposing to the surface on which the anti-cracking layer is laminated.

15. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 14, wherein a material of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer is at least one resin-based pressure-sensitive adhesive selected from the group consisting of an acrylic resin, a rubber-based resin and a vinyl-based resin.

16. (Previously Amended): The polarizing plate according to claim 12,
wherein the optical compensation plate is configured by laminating an anti-cracking layer on both surfaces of the optical compensation layer, and
one of the anti-cracking layers and the polarizer are laminated together via the transparent protective layer.

17. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 16, wherein, in the optical compensation plate, a pressure-sensitive adhesive layer and a liner are further disposed in this order on the surface of the anti-cracking layer on which the polarizer is not laminated.

Amendment

Application No. 10/502,296

Attorney Docket No. 042515

18. (Original): The polarizing plate according to claim 14, wherein a liner is further disposed on the surface of the pressure-sensitive adhesive layer.

19. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal panel, comprising a liquid crystal cell and the optical compensation plate according to claim 1.

20. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal panel of claim 19.

21. (Previously Presented): An image display apparatus, which is at least one image display apparatus selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescence (EL) display, a plasma display (PD) and a field emission display (FED), comprising the optical compensation plate according to claim 1.

22. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal panel, comprising a liquid crystal cell and the polarizing plate according to claim 12.

23. (Previously Presented): A liquid crystal display comprising the liquid crystal panel of claim 22.

Amendment

Application No. 10/502,296

Attorney Docket No. 042515

24. (Previously Presented): An image display apparatus, which is at least one image display apparatus selected from the group consisting of an electroluminescence (EL) display, a plasma display (PD) and a field emission display (FED), comprising the polarizing plate according to claim 12.